

# IOWA BIRD LIFE



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## Birds seen on the Lee County Foray

PETER C. PETERSEN

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DAVENPORT

The third Iowa Foray concentrated on Lee County, the most southeastern of Iowa's counties. Adjacent portions of Van Buren County including Shimek State Forest and the vicinity of Farmington, all east of the Des Moines River, were included. The foray was conducted primarily from May 31 through June 10, 1979. Principal ornithological researchers included Darwin Koenig 5-24 - 6-4, Joe Schaufenbuel 5-24 - 6-4, Dean Roosa 5-31 - 6-10, John Bowles 5-1 - 3, Kathy Fisher 6-1, 3 & 17, Tom Kent 6-9, Mike Newlon 6-9, James Huntington 6-9, and the author 6-1 - 3. The foray was sponsored by the Iowa State Preserves Advisory Board. A complete published summary will soon be available from the board.

The most intensive work was done in the area of Shimek State Forest. Of the 7929 acres which comprise the forest, 5878 acres are in Lee County and the remainder is in Van Buren County. Four state bird breeding survey routes were run by Koenig and Schaufenbuel. The federal route, No. 001, was run by Fisher. This route has been run 12 of the 13 years that the survey has been conducted in Iowa with 84 species found. Two species were doubtless migrants (Hermit Thrush and Brewer's Blackbird). The route runs north to south through the western portion of the county near Shimek Forest. Banding operations in several habitats in the Lick Creek Unit of Shimek Forest were conducted, June 1-3, by Bowles and the author. The various habitats of Shimek Forest and the remainder of Lee County were surveyed for singing males and lingering migrants. The Des Moines and Mississippi valleys were emphasized.

This annotated list of species encountered includes only birds found on or just following the foray period. Several other species, especially C. Screech Owl, Sedge Wren and Loggerhead Shrike, could be expected to be breeders but were not encountered.

The following terms of status for breeders were used to keep the list basic: common -- impossible to miss in its optimum habitat, fairly common -- difficult to miss in its optimum habitat, uncommon -- should be found in optimum habitat, rare -- must be searched for even in optimum habitat. Status determined primarily by the author with input from D.K. and J.S. Migrants are listed merely as migrants with dates but no status, specific locations and observers are included if the record is noteworthy.

**Double-crested Cormorant.** Rare -- possibly a non-breeder, June 9 near Montrose (TK,MN,JH).

**Great Blue Heron.** Uncommon.

**Green Heron.** Uncommon.

**Cattle Egret.** Rare -- one seen in Green Bay Twp., Lee Co. on June 17 (KF).

**Mallard.** Fairly common.

**Blue-winged Teal.** Uncommon.

**Wood Duck.** Fairly common female and 6 young seen June 2 at Montrose (PP).

**Canvasback.** Migrant -- single bird near Montrose on June 9 (TK,MN,JH).  
(TK,MN,JH).

**Ring-necked Duck.** Migrant -- single male in a pond west of Montrose on June 9 (TK,MN,JH).

**Lesser Scaup.** Migrant -- 9 seen near Keokuk on June 2 (JB).

**Turkey Vulture.** Common, especially in Shimek Forst.

**Red-tailed Hawk.** Uncommon.

**Red-shouldered Hawk.** Rare, one seen 2 miles west of Keokuk along the Des Moines River on June 2 (PP).

**American Kestrel.** Uncommon.

**Ruffed Grouse.** Rare -- reintroduced in 1970, one female seen on June 5, Donnellson Unit south of Pond 1 (DR).

**Bob-White.** Fairly common -- should have been common but said by Fisher to be reduced by the severe winter. Total on the 1979 Federal bird breeding survey route was 24 versus 56 in 1978.

**Ring-necked Pheasant.** Common.

**Turkey.** Fairly common -- chiefly confined to Shimek Forest.

**American Coot.** Uncommon -- found along Mississippi just northeast of Fort Madison.

**Killdeer.** Fairly common.

**American Woodcock.** Uncommon, chiefly in Shimek Forest -- seen May 29 and 30 in the forest (JS). Two newly hatched young found June 2 with parent at Lick Creek Unit (JS) where a male was banded early in the morning that day (PP).

**Spotted Sandpiper.** Uncommon.

**Pectoral Sandpiper.** Migrant -- 2 seen at Green Bayou northeast of Fort Madison on June 2 (PP).

**White-rumped Sandpiper.** Migrant, about 10 present at Green Bayou on June 2 (JS,PP), about 30 on June 3 (DK,JS,PP).

**Stilt Sandpiper.** Migrant -- one at Green Bayou June 2 (JD,PP).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper.** Migrant -- over 150 at Green Bayou June 2 (JS,PP), about 50 on June 3 (DK,JS,PP).

**Sanderling.** Migrant -- one at Green Bayou June 2 (JS,PP).

**Northern Phalarope.** Migrant -- a female at Green Bayou June 2 (JS,PP).

**Caspian Tern.** Migrnat -- 3 at First Miss. Plant, Green Bay Twp. on June 3 (DK,JS,PP).

**Rock Dove.** Common.

**Mourning Dove.** Common.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo.** Common -- more found than were expected due to caterpillar outbreak, two were netted in Lick Creek Unit (PP).

**Black-billed Cuckoo.** Common -- see above, four netted in Lick Creek Unit (PP).

**Great Horned Owl.** Uncommon.

**Barred Owl.** Fairly common -- especially in Shimek Forest and along the two major rivers.

**Whip-poor-will.** Common.

**Chuck-will's widow.** Rare -- one heard east of Pond 2, Shimek Forest on May 30 (DK,JS).

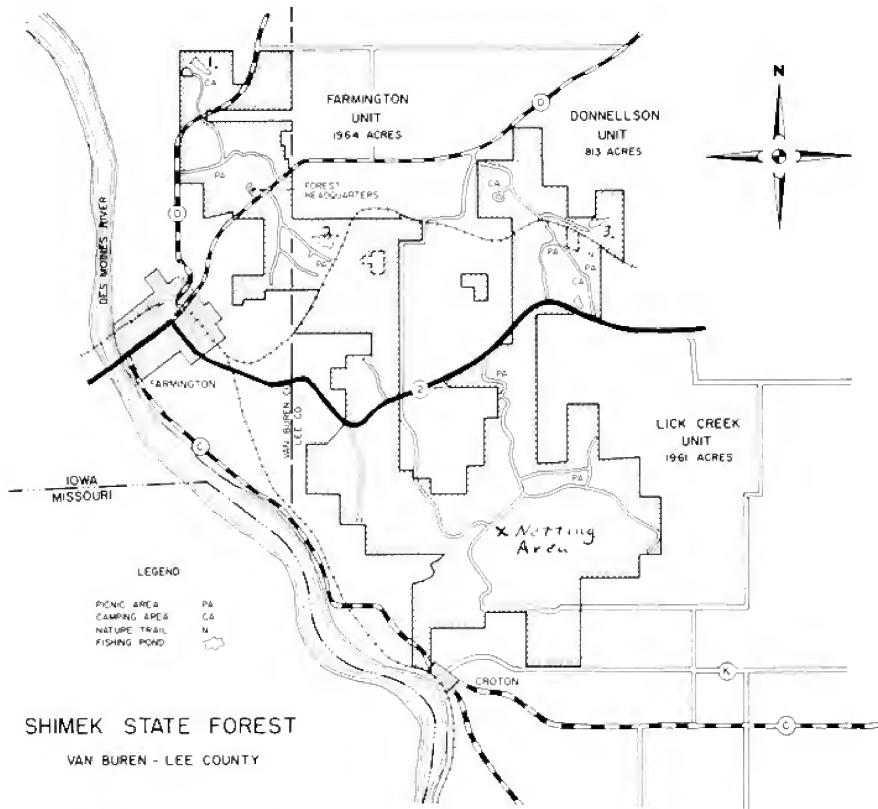
**Common Nighthawk.** Fairly common -- especially in the towns.

**Chimney Swift.** Common.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird.** -- Uncommon -- but especially regular in Lick Creek Unit of Shimek Forest.

**Common Flicker.** Common.

**Pileated Woodpecker.** Rare -- restricted to bottomlands along the two major rivers.



**Red-bellied Woodpecker.** Fairly common.

**Red-headed Woodpecker.** Common.

**Hairy Woodpecker.** Fairly Common.

**Downy Woodpecker.** Fairly Common.

**Eastern Kingbird.** Common.

**Western Kingbird.** Migrant or straggler, one seen June 9 just North of Croton at edge of Lick Creek Unit (TK,MN,JH).

**Great Crested Flycatcher.** Common.

**Eastern Phoebe.** Fairly common.

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.** Migrant, two heard in Lick Creek Unit on June 1 and 2 (JS,PP).

**Acadian Flycatcher.** Rare, several heard in Shimek Forest, one netted in Lick Creek Unit on June 1 (PP). A nest was found on May 29 in nearby Lacey Keosauqua State Park (DK).

**Willow Flycatcher.** Fairly Common.

**Alder Flycatcher.** Migrant, presumably, with one heard June 2 at Lick Creek Unit of Shimek Forest (JS).

**Least Flycatcher.** Migrant, presumably, one heard on June 2, Lick Creek Unit Shimek Forest (JS).

**Eastern Pewee.** Common.

**Horned Lark.** Common.

**Tree Swallow.** Uncommon, three seen east of Fort Madison on June 3 (PP).

Good breeding habitat is scarce.

**Bank Swallow.** Fairly common.

**Rough-winged Swallow.** Fairly common.

**Barn Swallow.** Common.

**Cliff Swallow.** Rare, not seen in Lee County but about 20 pair nest under the Des Moines River bridge at Farmington.

**Purple Martin.** Common.

**Blue Jay.** Common.

**Common Crow.** Common.

**Black-capped Chickadee.** Common -- Despite a careful examination of all chickadees seen at close range and close attention to vocalization no Carolina Chickadee was located.

**Tufted Titmouse.** Common.

**White-breasted Nuthatch.** Fairly common.

**House Wren.** Common.

**Carolina Wren.** Rare -- Probably reduced by several severe winters. One seen and heard on June 3 about 2 miles east of Fort Madison along the Mississippi bluff (PP) and one June 9 at the same location (TK,MN,JH).

**Northern Mockingbird.** Rare.

**Gray Catbird.** Common -- 4 banded at Lick Creek Unit (JB,PP).

**Brown Thrasher.** Common.

**American Robin.** Common.

**Wood Thrush.** Fairly common, one banded on June 2 Lick Creek Unit (JB).

**Veery.** Rare, seems restricted to Lick Creek Unit, Shimek Forest.

**Eastern Bluebird.** Fairly common, fence post nest with eggs found 2 miles S.W. of Donnellson on June 2 (JS,PP).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.** Fairly common.

**Cedar Waxwing.** Common.

**European Starling.** Common.

**White-eyed Vireo.** Rare, one pair quite territorial at Lick Creek Unit both banded June 1, recaptured June 2 (JB,PP).

**Bell's Vireo.** Rare, one on Federal route June 3 and one June 9 (TK,MN,JH).

**Yellow-throated Vireo.** Fairly common.

**Red-eyed Vireo.** Common, one netted at Lick Creek Unit on June 2 (PP).

**Warbling Vireo.** Common.

**Black-and-white Warbler.** Migrant -- one on June 9 (TK,MN,JH).

**Prothonotary Warbler.** Uncommon, found along the Des Moines River near Keokuk including the oxbow now south of the river just west of the Route 61 bridge (southern most point in Iowa).

**Worm-eating Warbler.** Rare to uncommon and local, up to 5 at Lick Creek Unit, one west of Keokuk on June 2 (JS,PP) and one on the federal route on June 3 (KF). In nearby Lacey Keosauqua State Park a total of 8 were found (JS,DK).

**Golden-winged Warbler.** Migrant -- one seen and heard on June 3 along Federal route just west of Argyle (KF).

**Blue-winged Warbler.** Uncommon, 2 banded on June 2 at Lick Creek Unit (JB).

**Tennessee Warbler.** Migrant, one seen in Shimek Forest on June 2 (DK).

**Nashville Warbler.** Migrant, one seen in Shimek Forest, Van Buren Co. on June 1 (JS,KD).

**Northern Parula Warbler.** Uncommon, nest found in Lacey-Keosauqua State Park, on May 29 first recorded Iowa nesting (DK,JS) (See General Notes).

**Yellow Warbler.** Fairly common.

**Cerulean Warbler.** Uncommon generally, especially concentrated in Shimek Forest. On June 9 a total of 10 were found (TK,MN,JH).

**Blackburnian Warbler.** Migrant, one on June 2 (DK) and June 3 (DR) in Shimek Forest.

**Yellow-throated Warbler.** Rare, one west of Keokuk along the Des Moines River on June 2 (DK). Four found in Van Buren County at Lacey Keosauqua State Park (DK and JS).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler.** Migrant (probably), 2 at Lick Creek Unit on June 1 (JS).

**Ovenbird.** Fairly common, 2 banded on June 1, Lick Creek Unit (PP).

**Louisiana Waterthrush.** Uncommon, 3 banded Lick Creek Unit on June 1 and 2 (PP and JB). A nest was found on May 24 in Shimek Forest (DK).

**Kentucky Warbler.** Fairly common.

**Mourning Warbler.** Migrant, one singing on June 1, paint Creek Unit (JS) and one June 9 (TK,MN,JH).

**Common Yellowthroat.** Common.

**Yellow-breasted Chat.** Uncommon, one banded on June 3, Lick Creek Unit (PP).

**Hooded Warbler.** Rare, one on June 1, Lick Creek Unit (JS).

**American Redstart.** Uncommon, one banded, Lick Creek Unit on June 2 (JB).

**House Sparrow.** Common.

**Bobolink.** Fairly common.

**Eastern Meadowlark.** Common.

**Western Meadowlark.** Uncommon, maximum on Federal route, any year, was one. Only one found June 1-3 throughout county (PP).

**Red-winged Blackbird.** Common, 2 banded, Lick Creek Unit (PP,JB).

**Orchard Oriole.** Uncommon.

**Northern Oriole.** Common.

**Common Grackle.** Common, one banded, Lick Creek Unit on June 2 (PP).

**Brown-headed Cowbird.** Common, 3 banded, Lick Creek Unit on June 2 (PP).

**Scarlet Tanager.** Fairly common, especially in Shimek Forest.

**Northern Cardinal.** Common.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak.** Common, 4 banded Lick Creek Unit on June 2 (PP,JB).

**Blue Grosbeak.** Rare, one south of Vincennes on June 2 (DK).

**Indigo Bunting.** Common, 4 banded in Lick Creek Unit on June (PP,JB).

**Dickcissel.** Common, slight decrease on Federal route in recent years.

**American Goldfinch.** Common.

**Rufous-sided Towhee.** Common, one banded Lick Creek Unit on June 3 (PP).

**Savannah Sparrow.** Rare, one near Keokuk Airport on June 2 (PP) and one along Federal route on June 3 (KF).

**Grasshopper Sparrow.** Common.

**Vesper Sparrow.** Fairly common.

**Lark Sparrow.** Uncommon, found only in sandy areas.

**Chipping Sparrow.** Common.

**Field Sparrow.** Fairly common.

**White-throated Sparrow.** Migrant, one along Federal route on June 3 (KF) and one at Lick Creek Unit on June 9 (TK,MN,JH).

**Song Sparrow.** Fairly common, especially along Mississippi River.

## Recent Breeding Records of Uncommon or Rare Birds of Iowa

JOE SCHAUFENBUEL  
ST. LUCAS

During the years 1978-'79 the following six species were found breeding, or under conditions that suggested breeding, in Iowa: Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), American Woodcock (*Philohela minor*), Common Snipe (*Capella galinago*), Brown Creeper (*Certhia familiaris*), Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*), and Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*). These species can be considered uncommon (with few breeding records in recent years) or rare (with less than five records in the past 25 years or more) in Iowa. I have summarized these records and have attempted to shed some light on the breeding status of some species.

A Swainson's Hawk, perched next to its nearly completed nest, was discovered on April 25, 1978, near Donnan; more specifically along the northwest edge of section 2, Center Township, Fayette County. The nest was placed about 18 feet above the ground in a 45 foot Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*). Bordering the nesting tree on the east was a wet, 10 acre prairie remnant. Several hundred yards to the southeast other grassy areas, being more extensive and drier, formed what appeared to be desirable hunting habitat for the adult birds. Cornfields bordered the site on the north and west. Structurally, the nest was poorly built, being less bulky and smaller in platform diameter than a Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) nest. Sticks and twigs, most with a diameter of one-half inch or more, were used in the construction of the nest. Smaller twigs formed the lining.

Activity in and around the nest could easily be checked from a nearby road, since the nesting tree was isolated and the nest was exposed. Seven visits were made to the site over a six week period beginning after the initial discovery. The following events were observed and recorded: April 30 - one adult seen; May 1 - both adults present at the nest; May 18 - one adult; May 27 - both adults seen near nest; June 17 - both birds present and becoming more intolerant towards intruding humans, evidently the nest contained eggs at this time; July 7 - one adult and young in nest; July 15 - last time nest was checked, no adults seen, one young observed.

Upon finding the nest I informed several observers, who, in the ensuing weeks came to view and thus confirm the nesting. Eventually, at least fifteen people came to the nesting site. Carl Kurtz photographed the adults and nest in June.

Summer observations on Swainson's Hawks near the towns of Waucoma and Alpha, in extreme northwest Fayette County, implies breeding in this area also. My records include an adult here July 7, 1978, and an adult, carrying prey, being pursued by two flying young on Aug. 22, 1978. In 1979, a pair was found here May 6; also a lone bird Aug. 18, strongly supports the possibility of breeding in this area. Brown (Ref. 1) called the species a rare breeding bird, citing a few breeding occurrences. He also indicated that the species was more frequent in western Iowa, occasionally being found in the eastern portion of the state. Topical Iowa literature indicates a sudden boon of nest finds in the state, leaving this observer to speculate that the increase is due more to active birders than to an actual increase of Swainson's Hawks nesting.



An adult American Woodcock was flushed from two downy young in the Lick Creek Unit of Shimek State Forest June 2, 1979, during the Lee County foray. The young were found in a grass-lined depression on a south-facing, open, scrubby hillside. This nest-like structure could have been a temporary brooding site or possibly the actual nest, although no eggshell fragments were found in the vicinity.

Woodcock breeding records have been previously recorded from Lee County (Ref. 2). Statewide nesting records are few. Sightings of Woodcock in Shimek State Forest May 29, May 30, and June 2, during the foray, indicate good population within the forest.

Bob Myers and I flushed a Common Snipe at Sweet Marsh, Bremer County, May 11, 1979. A quick search disclosed the nest located in a grassy marsy near the northeast parking lot of Sweet Marsh. The nest was slightly hidden by a tuft of vegetation and was constructed mostly of grass fibers in a neat bowl shape. Two eggs were found in the nest.

The Common Snipe has been a rare breeding bird in Iowa. Records show breeding snipe in 1947 (Ref. 1) and again in 1965 at Union Slough (Ref. 3). In the spring of 1978 a snipe nest was found in the Iowa Great Lakes Region by Bill Ohder (fide D. Koenig). In the spring of 1979, Darwin Koenig discovered a snipe nest at Hayden Prairie, Howard County. The species may have been encouraged to nest in Iowa with the late wet spring experienced the past two years, or perhaps it has been nesting undetected through the years.

On June 4, 1978, during the Allamakee County foray, Alan Branhagen and I discovered an adult Brown Creeper two miles south of New Albin in an area of Mississippi floodplain forest. Our interest in the bird heightened after observing the creeper return several times to what appeared to be a nesting cavity. Upon checking the suspected tree, we unexpectedly found three fledgling creeper clinging to its bark. Further searching revealed the nest neatly tucked behind the loose bark of a Black Willow (*Salix nigra*). The nest was seven feet above the ground and still contained one well-feathered young. The material used in the nest structure was mainly narrow bark strips and plant fibers. The nesting tree was about thirty-five feet in height and over one and one-half feet in diameter at chest height. The tree appeared to have been dead for at least five years. On the same date, three adult creepers were seen feeding two recently fledged young (recently fledged Brown Creepers are identified by their short tails and fuzzy contour feathers) in the Mississippi's floodplain at Waukon Junction. These birds were seen by Alan Branhagen and I. A June 8 sighting by Darwin Koenig at Kain's Siding (north of Lansing) of two adults in floodplain habitat begins to show the creeper's true status in this area.

If what is suspected is indeed true, the Brown Creeper is a fairly common breeding bird, at least in the Mississippi floodplain bordering Allamakee County. But the truth is most likely that the creeper has a rather wide but sparsely populated - due to the paucity of proper breeding habitat - range in Iowa. Inconspicuous behavior and such low numbers undoubtedly cause the Brown Creeper to be overlooked as a summer resident. Proof of this lies in my recent observation of an adult creeper feeding one recently fledged young at Sweet Marsh, Bremer County, June 17, 1978 and a singing bird at Dolliver State Park, Webster County, found by D. Koenig and I in late June, 1979.

The Brown Creeper is considered a rare permanent resident (Ref. 1) with a handful of recent summer observations (June 1 to Aug. 15). The most interesting being John Faaborg's June 12, 1968 record of an adult feeding young in Boone

County. Records suggesting breeding occurred at Cedar Falls, Blackhawk County, in 1962. A Brown Creeper was banded in Scott County in the summer of 1966 (Ref. 1). It was considered a breeding species at Princeton, Scott County, in 1971 (Ref. 4). In this same area (Iowa-Illinois border) the Brown Creeper was recorded as a rare breeding bird during the period 1940 to 1976 in the Quad-Cities region (Ref. 5). In addition this species was found at Lake Rathbun during June and July of 1976 (Ref. 6).

It has been suggested that the creeper is currently in a campaign to extend its breeding range southward, as several other species have done. I do not fully believe this. It is interesting though that the creeper is most numerous in the extreme northeastern part of Iowa. This may reflect the range of most desirable habitat. Green and Janssen noted a lack of breeding records for the species in the southern two tiers of counties (Ref. 7), denoting possibly both a paucity of observers and the uninviting character of the Brown Creeper's preferred floodplain habitat - with its mosquitoes, ticks, nettles and mud - in this area.

If current trends continue, the growing number of observers in Iowa will hopefully fill in the breeding range of this species. The most likely places for nesting are along the wooded river valleys that remain along the Mississippi, Wapsipinicon, Iowa, Des Moines rivers and possibly the larger reservoirs. Localities with high Christmas Bird Count totals of Brown Creepers may also offer permanent residents.

A Blue-winged Warbler nest was discovered under construction along a trail at Fish Farm Mounds State Preserve, May 17, 1978. On May 29 the nest was visited again and found to contain four eggs. By June 25 the nest was empty and young were seen near the vacated nest. The nest was located about one foot off the ground in the grassy border of a foot path. The Blue-winged Warbler is classified as a rare breeding bird in eastern Iowa and all nests should be recorded.

Singing male Chestnut-sided Warblers were located by the author June 14 at Sweet Marsh and at Volga Lake, Fayette County, June 29, 1978. These birds were considered to be unmated. A week later, July 6, Darwin Koenig and I tried to relocate the latter bird but failed. Instead we discovered three apparently different birds scattered in the northeast part of Volga Lake. One of these birds was observed feeding a fledgling. After a few minutes, the male bird was joined by a female which fed the young warbler. We observed these warblers for about thirty minutes. During this time the female fed the young several times and the male sang frequently.

Chestnut-sided Warbler breeding records do not exist for Iowa in this century prior to 1978. Summer observations, all from the eastern half of the state, include June 29, 1952 at Des Moines, a singing male at Decorah, Winneshiek County, July 1, 1963 (Ref. 1), and summer records without specific dates at Camp Arrowhead, Wapello County in 1975 (Ref. 8). In 1978 the warbler was apparently found breeding at Lake McBride Field Campus, Johnson County without specifics, by Tom Shires (Ref. 9). Two singing males seen on the 1979 Lee County foray, June 1, were unusual for southeast Iowa at this date. Enough attractive secondary growth occurs in eastern Iowa's state-owned land areas to support a reasonably small breeding population of this species and should be looked for accordingly.

It is my belief that ardent field work would reveal that breeding of these six species is not altogether that unusual or rare in Iowa and that essentially the lack of breeding records construes a lack of observers. Efforts of observers would no doubt prove this point to be true.

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## Nesting Upland Sandpipers in Eastern Iowa

LARRY KOCK

R. R. 2

MUSCATINE, IOWA

A steady drizzle was falling as I drove past my father-in-law, Max Ganzer's farm near Walcott, Iowa in Muscatine County on July 9, 1978. I spotted a strange bird on a fence post. It was an unfamiliar bird that looked somewhat like a snipe. However, this was no snipe. As I slowed down the bird lowered itself on the post but did not fly. I didn't have time to make a positive identification until I got home. I thumbed through one of my bird identification books in the shore bird section and found it to be an Upland Snadpiper. Wow! An Upland Sandpiper? Here? I could hardly believe it.

I went back July 11, with my camera and 400mm lens. I found the bird again in almost the same spot on a fence post. Using my pickup truck as a "blind" I drove slowly toward the Upland Sandpiper and stopped. The bird was somewhat leery, but I managed to get a few good "shots". I then went to the house to tell of my sightings. My wife, Lona, stopped by a little later. While driving up the lane she saw a bird that looked like a juvenile pheasant. Taking a closer look she discovered the bird was no pheasant but an Upland Sandpiper.

Lona then came to the house and told me of her findings. I gathered my equipment and went to investigate. We walked on the lane adjacent to the pasture and waited. The adult Upland Sandpiper saw us, took to the air and gave an alarm call. We waited awhile longer and finally saw a young bird in the grass, then



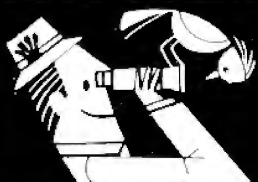
Adult Upland Sandpiper -- Photo by Larry Kock

another and another, three young Upland Sandpipers. We then gave chase. Trying to capture one to photography was no easy task. They couldn't fly yet, but they sure could run. Whenever we got too close, they would hide in the weeds and grass. We finally did capture one. I got some nice photographs of it while the adult bird flew overhead crying out its alarm call "quip-ip-ip-ip."

That night I called Peter Petersen to tell him I had found three juvenile Upland Sandpiper and one adult. He was interested in banding the young birds if possible. I also called Sharon Davis, naturalist for the Muscatine County Conservation Board. She also wanted to help and would bring Rose Simonis along.

We met at 7:00 a.m. in Walcott and headed to the farm three miles away. On our arrival we were threatened by the mother Upland Sandpiper in the middle of the road. We saw the three young birds across the road from the Ganzer farm. We gave chase, but the birds ran into a corn field and disappeared. After waiting about twenty minutes we left because the birds stayed hidden in the tall corn. I came back again but didn't see the juvenile or adult Upland Sandpiper again.

## FIELD REPORTS



### FALL 1979

Thomas H. Kent, Field Reports Editor  
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#### WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS

The weather was generally mild throughout the period. Heavy rains in mid-August removed the excellent shorebird habitat at the Coralville Reservoir, but a mild dry September returned some shorebird habitat. Leaves were late to turn. An early October snow downed many green trees in Council Bluffs.

#### GENERAL TRENDS

The late spring may have extended the nesting season. Nests of Yellow-billed Cuckoo, House Wren and N. Cardinal were found in September. Shorebirds were not plentiful except at the Coralville Reservoir. There were a number of late warbler reports perhaps due to the late fall.

#### UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Casual species encountered include Red-necked Grebe at Coralville Reservoir, White-winged Scoter at five locations, Sandhill Crane at Otter Creek Marsh, and a summer report of Say's Phoebe in northwest Iowa. Uncommon regular species included Little Blue Herons at three locations, Whistling Swans in western Iowa, N. Goshawk, Peregrine Falcon at two locations, Little Tern, Cape May Warbler in southwest Iowa, Red Crossbill at 5 locations, and a Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

## LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

**Common Loon:** Earliest at Lock 9 on 11 Oct. (DK); latest at Big Spirit L. on 17 Nov. (DH); others at Hamburg (IG,RP), Lock 13 (PP), Johnson Co. (TK,MN).

**Red-necked Grebe:** A winter plumage bird was seen on the Coralville Res. on 28 Oct. (+TK) and 30 Oct. (+TSh).

**Horned Grebe:** Earliest at Sunken Cove, Pocahontas Co. on 6 Oct. (RC); latest at Lock 9 on 24 Nov. (TK,CB,DK,JS); others at Big Spirit L. (DH), Maffit Res, Dallas Co. (HZ,LZ) and Coraville Res (TK,MN,TSh).

**Eared Grebe:** Only report was from SW Iowa at Willow S. on 6 Sept. (BW).

**Western Grebe:** Three reports from SW Iowa: Fremont Co. early Nov. (DP via RP) Riverton NWR on 13 Nov. (IG) and L. Manawa on 19 Nov. (TB,BP,SK).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** 6 nests were found at Willow S. with adult feeding young into September; 87 present on 8 Sept. (BW).

**American White Pelican:** Large numbers in W. Iowa with 2,500 at Riverton NWR on 17 Sept. (EK via JD) and an early date of 10 Aug. (IG); only report from E. Iowa was at Credit Is. on 15-16 Oct. (CS via PP).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 1 adult was present at Red Rock Res. in June and July and 2 adults and 6 immatures were there on 3 Aug., but no nest was found (GB). Fall reports of 1-6 birds from 11 localities across the state from 3 Aug. to 18 Nov. (m.ob.).

**Green Heron:** Latest report from Jester P., Polk Co. on 21 Oct. (SD via JD).

**Little Blue Heron:** Three reports of 2 immatures each at Willow S. on 1-10 Aug. (BW), Council Bluffs on 1-10 Aug. (JG,TB,SK,BP) and Coralville Res. on 11-18 Aug. (MN, mob.).

**Cattle Egret:** There were five reports of 1 to 7 birds from central to W. Iowa all between the 4th and 11th of September: 4 Sept. Big M., Butler Co. (CP via JD), 5 Sept. Ames (KW via JD), 6 Sept. Humboldt (WH via JD), 6 and 11 Sept. Emmett Co. (LM,DG via JD) and 7-8 Sept. Willow S. (+BW).

**Great Egret:** Reported from three locations, last on 4 Nov. in Humboldt Co. (RC).

**Black-crowned Night Heron:** 14 nests were found this summer at Beeds L., Franklin Co. (CP). Fall reports from Willow S. on 3 Sept. (BW), Coralville Res. on 8 Sept. (TSh,TK), Little Clear L., Pocahontas Co. on 22 Sept. (RC) and Little Wall L., Hamilton Co. (HZ).

**Yellow-crowned Night Heron:** An immature was seen from 23 July to 7 Sept. (+BW).

**Least Bittern:** One was seen at Sweet M. on 3 July (TStJr., TSt).

**American Bittern:** Only reports were from Willow S. on 3 Sept. (BW) and Little Clear L. on 20 Oct. (RC).

**Whistling Swan:** Swans were seen in the NW corner in Lyon Co. on 12 Nov. (JV) and the SW corner in Fremont Co. on 12-17 Nov. (IG,RP,RSi) and at Viking L. SP on 24 Nov. (RM). Swans are regularly seen in NE Iowa -- a large flock (105) was present on 24 Nov. (DK,JS,TK,CB,MM).

**Snow Goose:** 250,000 were reported to be at DeSoto NWR on 18 Nov. (JG).

**Canada Goose:** 4 were present in Franklin Co. as early as 3 Aug. (DK) and 3,000 were still present in the Ruthven area on 2 Dec. (RC).

**Wood Duck:** Good concentrations were observed in NW Iowa in late Oct.: 150 at Rush L., Palo Alto Co. on 27 Oct. (RC) and 250 at Cherokee on 29 Oct. (DB).

**Mallard:** Many observers commented on the large numbers; 12,000 were reported at Big Spirit L. on 11 Nov. (DH) and 150,000 at Rush L. on 24 Nov. (RC).

- American Black Duck:** 2 were seen at Bays Branch, Guthrie Co. on 25 Nov. (RC) and 1 at Keokuk on the same day (TSh). I did not report the ones I saw because I considered them regular in E. Iowa. Woody Brown tells me they are uncommon in central and W. Iowa.
- Common Pintail:** 10 flying south of Ames were unusual on 5 Aug. (TSh,TK).
- Blue-winged Teal:** Late migrants were 3 Nov. at Bradgate A., Humboldt Co. (RC) and 10 Nov. at Lock 13 (PP).
- Northern Shoveler:** A hen with 15 ducklings was found at Little Clear L., Pocahontas Co. on 14 July (RC). Small numbers of Shovelers are seen in Johnson Co., so I failed to realize that they are uncommon nesters in Iowa.
- Canvasback:** A hen with 9 young was found at North S., Emmett Co. on 5 July (DH). Over 5,000 were present at Lock 9 on 24 Nov. (TK,CB,DK,JS,MM).
- Redhead:** Several were at Forney L. on 11-12 June (TStJr, TSt).
- White-wing Scotor:** There were reports from five widely scattered areas of the state: 1 was shot at Little Clear L. on 20 Oct. (RC); 1 was shot at L. Odessa on 1 Nov. (+RT); 8 were present at Little Wall L. from 4-12 Nov. and 1 of 2 shot was given to ISU collection (+JD,SD,MD); 1 was at George Wyth SP on 11 Nov. (TStJr, TSt,RH,RM,FM); and 3 were shot at Riverton NWR (RP).
- Ruddy Duck:** 500 were at Lock 13 on 10 Nov. (PP).

#### VULTURES THROUGH TURKEYS

- Turkey Vulture:** 30 were present this summer at Red Rock L. (GB); 50-100 filled the sky for the fall meeting of the IOU at Keosauqua on 15 Sept.
- Osprey:** Reports were from 12 locations from 25 Aug. to 11 Nov. with most in Sep. (m.ob.).
- Bald Eagle:** An immature observed at close range on several occasions on 4, 13, 16 Aug. (+TK,+TSh) was in the same area of the Coralville Res. as the immature Golden Eagle reported previously by Halmi on 28 July. Otherwise, the earliest report was 12 Sep. from NE Iowa (DK,JS). There were several reports from central and W. Iowa -- 4 from Story and Polk Counties (JD, J Schaefer via JD,DM), 1 each from Humboldt and Cherokee Counties (RC,DB) and 2 from SW Iowa (JG,IG).
- N. Goshawk:** A well-groomed bird was within a stone's throw at DeSoto NWR on 17 Nov. (+JG, MG,AB).
- Cooper's Hawk:** Reported by 8 observers from 8 Sep. to 27 Oct.
- Red-tailed Hawk:** 49 were seen near Cherokee on 6 Oct. (DB).
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** One was seen at Yellow Riv. F on 19 Sep. (DK).
- Broad-winged Hawk:** 50-100 were seen near Hiawatha on 15 Sep. (RSy via WN).
- Swainson's Hawk:** Nesting at Hartman's Reserve for third year in a row (TStJr). Several in Lyon Co. in late July (DH). Five fall records: 16 Aug. Hamburg (IG), 18 Aug. two in Fayette Co. (JS), 5 Sep. at Cardinal M (DK) and 9 Sep. in Woodbury Co. (DK).
- Rough-legged Hawk:** Earliest reports on 20 Oct. in Polk and Cherokee Counties (JD,DB).
- Golden Eagle:** 3 each were reported from opposite corners of the state on 24-25 Nov. at Hamburg (IG) and along the Upper Iowa Riv. (+TK,DK,JS,CB,MM).
- Peregrine Falcon:** Two reports were from George Wyth SP on 28 Sep. (TStJr) and south of Cedar Rapids (+MN,CN,WN,BK,CK).
- Merlin:** 2 were reported at Coralville Res on 15 Sep. (FT) and 1 in Hardin Co. on 28 Oct. (DR via DK).
- American Kestrel:** 3 fledglings banded at Davenport on 7 Aug. (PP). Fall reports



were variable from increased to decreased.

**Common Bobwhite:** Good numbers were reported in Mills Co. (BW).

**Gray Partridge:** Expansion of range continues with good numbers in NE and NW Iowa (JS,JV).

**Wild Turkey:** Reports from near Swan L., Johnson Co. (TK,TSh) and in Allen's Grove in north central Scott Co. (CR via PP) may be new locations.

#### CRANES THROUGH TERNS

**Sandhill Crane:** An injured bird was found at Otter Creek M, Tama Co. on 13 Nov. It died in captivity on 24 Nov. and is in the ISU collection (JD).

**Sora:** 1 on 4 Nov. in Humboldt Co. was late (RC).

**Common Gallinule:** An adult with 6 young were at Clear L. on 5 July (CP) and an adult with 3 half grown young were at Green Is. on 15 Aug. (TK).

**American Avocet:** 1 was seen at Coralville Res. on 21 Oct. (+MN, m.ob.)

**Semipalmated Plover:** 30 were reported N. of Waterloo on 19 Oct. (TSt).

**Killdeer:** 1 in Sioux Co. on 10 Nov. was late for that area of the state (JV).

**Piping Plover:** 1 was seen at Coralville Res. on 13, 16 Aug. (TK).

**Lesser Golden Plover:** 3 near N. Liberty, Johnson Co. on 15, 22 Sept. (TK,TSh).

**Black-bellied Plover:** 1 at Coralville Res. 15 Sep. (TK,TSh); 30 in Harrison Co. 2 Nov. (JG,RGo).

**Hudsonian Godwit:** 1 at Coralville Res. 4 Aug. (TK).

**Upland Sandpiper:** 1 on 15 Sep. near N. Liberty, Johnson Co. was late (TK,TSh).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** 2 on 9 Nov. at Lock 9 were late (DK); 20 at Coralville Res. on 20 Oct. was a large flock (TK,TSh).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 150 at Rolfe, Pocahontas Co. on 2 Sep. was a large group (RC).

**Willet:** Only report from Willow S. on 19-20 Aug. (BW).

**Norther Phalarope:** 1 at Coralville Res. on 16 Aug. (TK); 1 at Gilmore, Pocahontas Co. 20 Sep. (+RC).

**American Woodcock:** 1 on 27 Oct. at Coralville Res. (TK,TSh,MM); 1 on 3 Nov. in Cedar Co. (DK).

**Common Snipe:** 9 in Sioux Co. on 10 Nov. were late for that area (JV).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Based on past field reports, information on dowitchers is meager. This may be due to their commonness or uneasiness about reporting species. In order to get more information, I suggest reporting them as Short-billed, Long-billed or Sp. along with comments on the field marks seen or heard. Short-billed were reported from Coralville Res. on 17 Aug. (MN) and Ames on 23 Sept. (HZ).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** Reported from Coralville Res. on 13, 21 Oct. (MN).

**W Sandpiper:** 2 were reported from Coralville Res. on 13 Aug. (TK) and 5 from Waterloo on 9-12 Sep. (TStJr).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** The data on the June reports which I omitted is: 2 at Willow S., Mills Co. 1 June; 3 at Coralville Res. on 3 June; 30 near Ft. Madison 3 June (DK,PP,JS); and 2 at Rock Creek SP, Jasper Co. on 10 June.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** All reports of 1-2 birds at Coralville Res. on 3, 16, 18 Aug., 22 Sep., 21 Oct. (TK,MN,TSh).

**Dunlin:** 15-18 on Coralville Res. on 20, 21 Oct. (TK,TSh, MN).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** Common at Coralville Res. up to mid Aug. with maximum of 56 on 17 Aug. (MN,m.ob.). Only other report from Cone M. on 29 Sep. (TK,TSh).

**Franklin's Gull:** 30 were seen at Coralville Res. on 3 Nov. (TK,TSh) and 4 at Cherokee on 10 Nov. (DB).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 5 at Saylorville on 20 Oct. (JD), 20 at L. Macbride on 28 Oct. (TK,TSh).



**Common Tern:** 2 in winter and summer plumages were observed on 6 Aug. at Willow S., Mills Co. (+BW).

**Little Tern:** 1 was at Willow S on 2 Aug. (+BW).

**Caspian Tern:** Early records were from S. of Ames on 5 Aug. (TK et al, not much compensation for missing the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher) and 13 Aug. at Bettendorf (PP). Mid-September records were from Lock 9 (DK,JS) and Polk Co. (DiM via WB) on 12 Sep. and Coralville Res. on 16, 22 Sep. (TK,TSh). The summer data which I omitted is: 3 on 3 June N of Ft. Madison (JS,DK,PP); 1 on 14 June at Dewey's Pasture, Clay Co. (JD); 1 on 29 June N of Ames (JD); and 2 on 10 July at Council Bluffs (JG,TB,SK,BP).

**Black Tern:** These were present all summer at Willow S. (BW).

#### PIGEONS THROUGH KINGFISHERS

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Young were still in a nest on 8 Sep. in Pocahontas Co. (RC). One reported on 20 Oct. from Fremont Co. was late (BW).

**Barn Owl:** One was seen at Hamburg on 22 Sep. (IG).

**Long-eared Owl:** A nest with 2 young was found in Lucas Co. (GB). An early fall report was 11 Oct. in south Story Co.; other reports were in late Nov. from northern Polk Co. (DM,DiM via WB), Sweet M (TStJr, TSt, RH), and Cedar Falls (RM).

**Short-eared Owl:** Reports were from Hamburg on 11 Aug. (IG), Sioux Center on 22 Sep. (JV) and Osceola Co. on 11 Nov. (RSp via DH).

**Saw-whet Owl:** The first netting date was late at Davenport on 24 Oct. (PP); 2 appeared at Hartman's Reserve on 11 Nov. and at George Wyth SP on 17 Nov. (TStJr, TSt, RM).

**Chuck-will's-widow:** Reported from Mills Co. in July (RG via JG).

#### WOODPECKER THROUGH SWALLOWS

**Common Flicker:** Red-shafted Flickers were seen in Sioux Co. on 10 Nov. (JV) and Shenandoah on 2 Dec. (RP).

**Eastern Kingbird:** 45 were found in a 10 mile stretch near Cone M on 31 Aug (MN).

**Western Kingbird:** 1 was seen in Marion Co. on 22 June (GB).

**Say's Phoebe:** 1 was seen in NW Iowa near Akron on 6 June (TSt Jr., TSt, EB).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** No one reported one in the field but 42 were netted at Davenport from 17 Aug. to 22 Sept. (PP).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** A relatively heavy migration was reported from SW Iowa (BW).

#### JAYS THROUGH STARLINGS

**Blue Jay:** Flocks of 50-100 were observed in late Sept. at Pocahontas (RC).

**Am. Crow:** Large flocks of 400-1000 in Story and Hamilton Counties with 400 at Blairsburg as early as August (JD, J Schaefer).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Only report was 27 Sept. at Coralville Res (TSh).

**House Wren:** Young fledged from a nest in Iowa City on 10 Sept. (HO).

**Marsh Wren:** Reports from 5 Aug. to 23 Nov. from 7 locations (m.ob.); the late record was from Guthrie Co. (RC).

**Sedge Wren:** Many in SW Iowa on 28-29 Sept. (JG); 5 other reports from E Iowa in August and September.

**Northern Mockingbird:** None reported.

**Gray Catbird:** Late on 21 Oct. in Iowa City (TSh).

**Am. Robin:** 500 were migrating S into a strong wind on 20 Oct. (TSh,TK).

**Hermit Thrush:** Many were migrating in Ames on 18 Oct. (HZ).

**Swainson's Thrush:** 1 at L Macbride 16 Sept. (TK) and Iowa City on 3 Oct. (MN) and 21 Oct. (TSh).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** Numbers seem to be back to normal with reports from many areas.

**Water Pipit:** Reports from Sioux Co. on 15 Sept. (JV), Coralville Res on 15, 21, 22 Sept. (TK,TSh,MN) and NE Iowa on 6-28 Oct. (JS).

**Northern Shrike:** 5 reported in NE Iowa 11, 17, 25, 29, 30 Nov. (DK,DR via DK).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** 1 in Lyon Co. on 4 Nov. (DH).

#### VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS

**White-eyed Vireo:** 1 at George Wyth SP 2-9 Sept. (TStJr, TSt).

**Bell's Vireo:** August reports from Iowa City (MN), Cone M (MN,TK), and Willow S (BW).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** Found at Iowa City on 9 Sept. (TK) and 22 Sept. (TSh) and at Pocahontas on 13 Sept. (RC). Four netted at Davenport 14-25 Sept. (PP).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** These are uncommon in the fall. One was seen at Iowa City on 17 Aug. (MN) and one netted in Davenport on 16 Sept. (PP). A Brewster's hybrid was reported from Waterloo on 20 Oct. (TStJr).

**Tennessee Warbler:** Late migrants occurred at Iowa City on 22 Oct. (TSh) and Davenport on 23 Oct. (netted, PP).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Late observations were at Coralville Res on 21 Oct. (MN) and Pinicon Ridge, Linn Co. on 27 Oct. (TK,TSh,MN).

**Nashville Warbler:** Late at Iowa City on 22 Oct. (TSh).

**Cape May Warbler:** 1 at Hamburg on 4 Oct. was unusual (IG); another seen at Davenport on 15 Sept. (PP).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 2 were netted at Davenport on 16 Sept. and 22 Oct. (PP).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** Two late reports: one netted at Davenport 8 Oct. (PP) and one seen at Coralville Res on 20 Oct. (+TK,TSh).

**Pine Warbler:** There were 3 sightings in Iowa City on 9, 10, 15 Sept. (+TK,TSh) and one at Cone M on 25 Sept. (TK).

**Connecticut Warbler:** One was netted at Davenport on 14 Sept. (PP), and one seen at Iowa City on 22 Sept. (TSh).

**Canada Warbler:** One netted at Davenport 3 Oct. (PP).

**Am. Redstart:** A late one netted at Davenport on 23 Oct. (PP).

#### MEADOWLARKS THROUGH BUNTINGS

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** A late record at Rush L, Palo Alto Co. on 27 Oct. (RC).

**Orchard Oriole:** A nest was found near Pleasantville (GB) and several were seen in Blackhawk Co. in late June and early July (TStJr, TSt).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** 1 at Decorah on 9 Nov. (DK) and several at Riverton NWR on 23 Nov. (RP).

**Common Grackle:** A flock of about 3,000 at Coralville Res on 17 Nov. (TK,TSh).

**Scarlet Tanager:** Late reports were from Davenport on 22 Oct. (netted, PP) and Ames on 28 Oct. (HZ).

**Northern Cardinal:** A nest with young was destroyed by a Blue Jay on 19 Sept. in Iowa City (AK).

**Blue Grosbeak:** Two summer reports from NW Iowa: 1 near Akron, Plymouth Co. on 12 June (TStJr, TSt,EB) and 1 in Osceola Co. (DH). Doug Harr reports that they have been breeding in SW Minnesota for the last three years.

**Dickcissel:** 1 in Harrison Co. on 2 Nov. was late (JG,RGo).

**Pine Siskin:** 4 reports from late Sept. to mid-Oct. (DM,JS,DB,PP).

**Red Crossbill:** 10-20 at Sioux Center on 20, 23, 24 Sept. (JV); 2 at Coralville Res on 27 Oct. (TSh,TK,MN); 1 at Iowa City on 6 Nov. (CN); 4 at Cambridge, Story Co. on 10 Nov. (GF via JD); and 12 at Rock Valley on 10 Nov. (JV).

**Rufous-sided Towhee:** One was present at Ames on 26-27 Oct. (TRM,TM via HZ); 1 of western race was in Iowa City on 28, 30 Nov. (TK).

**Savannah Sparrow:** The latest record was 11 Nov. at Lock 9 (JS,DK).

**LeConte's Sparrow:** 5 in Sioux Co. on 11 Oct. (DB); 2 at Coralville Res on 18, 20 Oct. (TSh,TK,FT); 20 in Montgomery Co. on 13 Oct. (RM).

**Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** One was seen at Cone M on 23 Sept. (TSh).

**Northern Junco:** The earliest report was 1 Oct. at Pine Hill Cem., Davenport, banded (PP).

**Fox Sparrow:** 40 were seen at the Coralville Res on 28 Oct. (MN).

**Lapland Longspur:** Many were seen in NE Iowa in early Nov. (JS); earliest date was 7 Oct. (JS).

**Snow Bunting:** The earliest report was in Chickasaw Co. on 10 Nov. (DK).

+ -- documented

#### CONTRIBUTORS

Dick Bierman, Cherokee; Gladys Black, Pleasantville; Woodward Brown, Des Moines; Raymond Cummins, Pocahontas; James Dinsmore, Ames; Janet Greer, Council Bluffs; Ione Getscher, Hamburg; Douglas Harr, Larchwood; Thomas Kent, Iowa City; Pearl Knoop, Marble Rock; Darwin Koenig, Decorah; Dean Mosman, Elkhart; Robert Myers, Waterloo; Weir Nelson, Cedar Rapids; Michael Newlon, Iowa City; Helen Osmundson, Iowa City; Peter Petersen, Davenport; Carl Piebe; Ruth Phipps, Shenandoah; Joe Schanfenbuel, St. Lucas; Thomas Shires, Iowa City; Tom Stone Jr., Waterloo; Fred Thompson, Marion; Robert Thornburg, Pleasantville; John Van Dyk, Sioux Center; Barbara Wilson, Hastings; Hank Zaletel, Ames; Linda Zaletel, Ames.

#### OTHER OBSERVERS (VIA)

Carl Bendorf (TK); Anne Bohlen (JG) Tanya Bray (JG); Eldon Bryant (TStJr); Mark Dinsmore (JD); Steve Dinsmore (JD); Gary Fredericks (JD); Ruth Gochenhour (JG); Dennis Goemaat (JD); Marge Graf (JG); Ruth Green (JG,BW); Russell Hayes (TStJr); Wayne Hubert (JD); Ann Kent (TK); Erwin Klass (JD); Bernie Knight (MN); Cal Knight (MN); Sandra Kovanda (JG); Dick Mooney (WB); Francis Moore (TStJr); Randy Maas (HZ); Tomma Maas (HA); Larry Mitchell (JD); Mike Mulier (TK,TSh); Carol Nelwon (MN); Babs Padelford (JG); Don Piebe (RP); Chris Reed (PP); Dean Roosa (DK); Joe Schaefer (JD); Clark Scott (PP); Ross Silcock (RP); Rick Snyder (WN); Ron Spengler (DH); Tom Stone (TStJr); Ken Wiggers (JD).

#### COMMENTS

Many contributors commented favorably on the change in format and several brought oversights to my attention. Several late summer reports were received, some due to slow mail and the change over in field editors. I have decided to include the late reports under the species accounts so that they can be easily found for later retrieval. Only the more significant findings from late report will be included, but all reports will be kept on file.

In spite of a rather dull season, the number and quality of contributions were excellent. Twenty-four contributors sent 76 pages of information including 20 documentations of unusual sightings. Only 13 pages were on less than 8½ x 11 inch pages. There were 8 late reports comprising 22 pages and 3 documentations.

One of the obvious problems contributors face is what to report. Over the next few seasons I would like to approach this problem in a series of comments. The most obvious species to report are those classified as casual or accidental, ie those species not on the Iowa Ornithologists Union Field Check List. I think all sightings of these species should be documented. Even if they are easy to identify, the information on the documentation form will be useful for long-term study of these species in Iowa. I heard of at least two sightings of casual species which were not reported and two that were reported are not included because of insufficient documentation. Regular but rare species should also be reported and documented if they are difficult to identify. I would be interested in your opinion of which species on the check list should always be documented. Also consider which species on the field check list should always be reported and let me know your views.

Another problem that makes for considerable judgment on my part is the handling of secondhand reports. I am not sure whether they have been evaluated by the contributor or just passed on because they are of interest. It would be easier, and I think better, if contributors would only pass on information they are willing to have their name associated with. Observers who are not contributors are of two categories: those who have accompanied contributors on field trips, and those who have reported to the contributor. For lack of a better word, I have indicated the latter situation by using the word "via" between observer and contributor. For persons who bird together, combined reports are more convenient, but I recommend that all individuals document rare sightings.

The reporting dates for 1980 will be the same as previous years: Winter - December, January, February; Spring - March, April, May; Summer - June, July; Fall - August, September, October, November. Please mail reports on or before 1 Mar., 1 June, 1 Aug. and 1 Dec. Include comments on any unusual weather or habitat conditions that have affected birding in your area.

## GENERAL NOTES



**Probable Nesting of the Northern Parula Warbler in Iowa** -- On May 29, 1979, while birding in Lacy-Keosauqua State Park, Joe Schaufenbuel and I watched a female Northern Parula Warbler (*Parula americana*) building a nest. When we first saw her, the female was in low shrubbery gathering strands from spider webs. She then flew to the nest site which was located in a Sycamore tree (*Platanus occidentalis*). The nest was placed in a clump of leaves at the end of a small branch approximately 45 feet from the ground. During the next 15 minutes we observed the female make numerous trips back and forth to the nest with nesting material. Unfortunately, we were unable to return to the nest site at a later date to ascertain whether it was successful or not.

This may be the first reported nesting attempt by the Northern Parula Warbler in Iowa. Neither Anderson (1907), DuMont (1933), nor Brown (1971) regarded this species as anything but a migrant in Iowa. However, Grant (1963) considered it a rare nesting bird in southeast Iowa.

Brown (1971) listed two summer records of territorial males; June 23, 1963 at Mt. Pleasant and June 27, 1965 in Des Moines. Another summer record, July 11, 1974 in Decatur County, is given in *Iowa Bird Life* 44:74. Joe and I found 10 Northern Parula Warblers in Van Buren and Lee Counties during late May-early June, 1979 and Joe found two more in Jones County on June 5 and 7, 1979. Comprehensive field work during the nesting season would undoubtedly reveal the Northern Parula Warbler to be a regular nesting species in southeastern Iowa.

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DARWIN KOENIG, RR 4, Decorah.

**Mallard nest with Ring-necked Pheasant eggs** -- In the summer of 1978 an excited Gladys Black called to inform me that Knoxville science class came upon a Mallard duck nest containing eight duck and six Ring-necked Pheasant eggs. The nest was at the foot of a small red-haw tree in Black's favorite pasture where she keeps records of birds that nest on the ground, tall grasses and low bushes. It is one of the few areas left where Loggerhead Shrikes brood their young. The Mallards protested my photographing the nest by circling overhead. Gladys informed me that Curt Froeyon, Knoxville biology teacher, would place the pheasant eggs in an incubator.



Mallard nest with pheasant eggs, July 1978 -- Photo by Herb Dorow

Shortly after the incident Edith and I left on a trip. On our return Gladys informed us that the pheasant eggs proved to be sterile. The duck eggs also proved to be a total loss. When checking, one egg was missing while the other seven were empty shells, every one punctured with a small square hole. The same thing happened to a Killdeer nest I was watching near Newton two years ago. There are a number of predacious birds that could be the culprits. HERB DOROW, 1200 S. 8th Ave. E., Newton.

**Streaking For Kingbirds** -- When we built our retirement home, we chose a lot on a dead end street in the northwest part of Lamoni, Iowa. There was only one tree on the lot - a Chinese elm and a grape arbor on the south. We planted many shrubs that had "berries for the birds." One shrub called arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*) is super to attract birds the last of July and August. I have ten of them that were planted in the spring of 1971. Seven years later, 1978, the shrubs had an abundance of blue berries.

At first I was banding a few Northern Orioles, Gray Catbirds, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Brown Thrashers. On July 24, 1978, I banded my first adult Eastern Kingbird for the year. I have always been able to band a few kingbirds that have been attracted to the arrowwood berries, but nothing compared to the number banded in 1978.

In August the Kingbirds began to come in great numbers. At this time Pete Rose was trying to tie the National League basenall record for forty-four consecutive hits in one year. So after I had banded thirty-two, I told Wallace I was going to try for forty-four kingbirds. Pete Rose made it and so did I. So I decided to keep streaking for more as Pete Rose was doing to tie Joe Dimaggio's record of fifty-seven hits. One day I banded sixteen kingbirds and I began to bemoan the fact that they were eating all my berries. My husband said, "I thought that is why you planted them, for the birds!" My replay was, "Yes, but I'd like some left for the Red-eyed Vireos when they come in September."

Pete Rose never tied Dimaggio's record of fifty-seven consecutive hits in one year, but I did and kept on streaking. They are truly king of the birds, for when they were here, only the Red-headed Woodpeckers challenged them and got in the net. I have found that Red-headed Woodpeckers can hold their own, even against E. Starlings.

On August 27, 1978, I banded the last kingbird and I had banded a total of eight-four kingbirds in my yard. After they left, I began to net Northern Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Gray Catbirds, Brown Thrashers, Indigo Buntings and C. Flickers. And then when September came and the Red-eyed Vireos and Warbling Vireos came into the yard to feed on the berries that were left. Of the eight-four Kingbirds banded, sixteen were adults with the red on their crowns, and sixty-eight had not red on the crown.

If you want to band Eastern Kingbirds or have them in your yard, then do plant arrowwood shrubs. MRS. WALLACE C. DeLONG, 314 N. Silver, Lamoni.

**First Annual National Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey - Midwest - 1979** -- As in the past the Mississippi River and its tributaries were checked from its source through Minnesota and Wisconsin and along the borders of the states of Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee, with complete state coverage in the last two states. Besides these areas that have been covered in the past some complete as possible nation-wide counts are listed below. Due to heavy drifts, much of the Illinois River was missed. A complete count taken on this river on 3

January found over 250 eagles. We cannot assume that they were still there, but they very well could have been. Due to extreme weather only around 500 people took part. This is still a good number and shows that the people enjoy and look forward to this count which was taken January 20, 1979 by most observers. Others went out later and I have some good reports from them.

LOCATION	ADULTS	IMMATURES	NOT AGED	TOTAL
Above Illinois	78	16	0	94
Lock & Dam 11-18	245	48	1	294
Lock & Dam 19-25	552	160	21	733
Grafton-Cairo, Ill.	143	91	4	238
Illinois River	40	32	9	81
Mo., Ky., Tenn. along River	86	77	0	163
River Totals	1,144	424	35	1,603
Scattered Illinois Reports	4	2	0	6
Illinois Refuges	26	28	0	54
Inland - Ky. Tenn.	75	119	11	205
GRAND TOTALS	1,249	573	46	1,868
Percentage	68.5 %	31.5 %		

Reports submitted to me shows 3 eagles found away from the Mississippi in Minnesota; 11 in Iowa; and 172 in Missouri. As in the past, I get some reports from Nebraska. With extremely bad weather a total of 82 eagles were reported. For a more complete count, see summary from the Raptor Information Center. Thirteen counties had complete road blockage due to drifts. On 17 February 170 were counted on the Republican River from Alma to Naponee for the largest reported count.

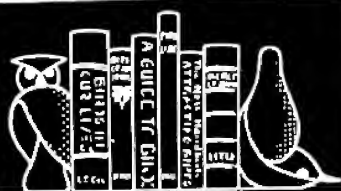
The weather with drifts and fog depressed the count. However the bitter cold must have resulted in larger fish kills as 422 more eagles counted this year over last year's high of 1446. The average for the six previous years was 1,017. Some spots along the river could not be reached, but perhaps these were frozen as more of the river was frozen over than ever.

If we credit the eagles along Illinois border as Illinois birds, then we had 1,406 for the largest Illinois count ever. If we were to credit those along the Iowa border as Iowa birds, then that state would have 758. ELTON FAWKS, Midwest Regional Coordinator, 510 Island Avenue, East Moline, Ill. 61244.

**Banded Iowa Swainson's Thrush Recovered in Peru** -- On March 1, 1977, an adult Swainson's Thrush banded on September 5, 1975, at Pine Hill Cemetery, Davenport, Iowa was recovered in the Amazon Basin of Peru. The exact recovery location was in the lower foothills of the Andes in an area known as the Gran Pajonal. This area is west of the Ucayali River, about 40 miles west of Atalaya and about 200 miles northeast of Lima. The information from the U. S. Banding Office indicates the bird was captured by hand. Since thrushes would be considered tasty by the local populations it was perhaps obtained for the pot. The direct airline distance from banding to recovery site is about 4,000 miles. PETER C. PETERSEN, 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport.



## BOOK REVIEWS



**Birds of the Great Plains -- Breeding Species and Their Distribution** -- Paul A. Johnsgard -- University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln -- 587 p., 30 color photographs, many line drawings and maps -- 1979 -- \$25.00.

The great plains area as an ecological unit includes part or all of eleven states from western Iowa to the Black Hills, from the Canadian border to Oklahoma. Although greatly changed by our present agricultural practices remnants of the original grassland still exist and continue to support many birds. This book presents the breeding status, habitat, timing and biology of these breeding birds. A range map is also included. A guide to bird-watching localities covers a few large areas. The author moves De Soto N.W.R. across the Missouri and thus lists no areas for Iowa. The refuge is in both Iowa and Nebraska but is reached only thru Iowa. It is unusual for U. S. coverage not to be restricted by state borders but the concept is logical from a biological viewpoint. Serious birders will find this book a useful asset. ed.

**The Nesting Season -- The Bird Photographs of Frederick Kent Truslow** -- F. K. Truslow, Commentary by Helen G. Cruickshank -- The Viking Press, New York -- 136 p., 75 color and 29 black-and-white photographs -- 1979 -- \$25.00.

Truslow became a photographer after he retired from a business career. This book brings together some of his best work, in some instances the photos have been seen previously in *Audubon* and *National Geographic*. The commentary and photographs cover the major events of the breeding cycle. The reproduction of the photographs is good but it always bothers me to see photographs enlarged to the point of depicting the subject larger than life-size. Despite inflation the price seems high. ed.

**A Field Guide to Western Birds Nests in the United States West of the Mississippi River** -- Hal H. Harrison -- Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston -- 279 p., 256 color, 161 black-and-white photographs, one map -- 1979 -- \$11.95.

This volume is the companion to the eastern nest guide by the same author reviewed in *IBL* Vol. 45 p. 99. The species coverage features color photographs of nest and eggs. Also included is the breeding range, habitat, nest and egg description, other life history data and some general notes. A total of 520 species are covered. Anyone who works with breeding birds in the field will find this guide helpful. ed.

**Population Ecology of Raptors** -- Ian Newton -- Buteo Books, P. O. Box 481, Vermillion, S. D. 57069 -- 399 p., 71 black-and-white photographs, many line drawings, diagrams and tables -- 1979 -- \$35.00.

We have yet another book on diurnal birds of prey but not just another format for the same material. This approach is concerned with all aspects of population regulation in raptors with their social behavior, dispersion, numbers, movements, breeding and mortality. The result provides a synthesis of recently discovered facts from various parts of the world which give a sound basis for further research and more effective conservation. The data is organized into chapters which relate



to the life history cycle, the effects of man's actions and captive management. This volume will interest everyone who enjoys raptors from birder to professional ornithologist. ed.

**Penguins** -- Roger Tory Petersen -- Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston -- 238 p., 74 color photographs, 137 drawings and one map -- 1979 -- \$25.00.

This book is a personal overview of this interesting order and the seventeen species which comprise it. It covers their environment, history, family life, interaction with man and even similar northern hemisphere species. When compared with Truslow's book it is a good value. It is an interesting book to read and will impart considerable information. All but seven of the photographs are by the author and the selection includes some great work. Anyone with an interest in penguins will enjoy this book and be happy to have it in their library. ed.

**A Birder's Guide to North Dakota** -- Kevin J. Zimmer -- L. and P. Press, Box 21604, Denver, Colorado 80221 -- 114 p., many maps and photographs -- 1979 -- paperback, \$5.00.

Kevin Zimmer is a former I.O.U. member and one of the contributors to **Birding Areas of Iowa**. His layout is similar to Jim Lanes' but he uses a county approach rather than the trip or loop format. The introduction covers habitats, topographic features, when to come, weather, what to bring, pests, where to stay, format, nomenclature, recommended materials and a background on the birds. The state is divided into four quarters and each section is covered county by county. The species of particular interest are detailed and a chart gives the seasonal and regional status of each species. As has been said of the Lane Books this guide is a must for a serious birder visiting the state. Many of the other Lane guides have been revised and they are all highly recommended. Just out is the 2nd revision of **A Birder's Guide to the Texas Coast** at \$5.00 -- just in time for the W.O.S. C.O.S. meeting in Corpus Christi. ed.

**Indiana Birds and Their Haunts** -- Charles, Shirley and Timothy Keller -- Indiana University Press, Bloomington -- 214 p., 14 maps -- 1979 -- \$12.50 (paperback -- \$6.95).

This book updates Indiana's bird list by providing the status of the 363 species meeting A.B.A. guidelines for a state list. Former status is included for most species. Occasional remarks provide some additional data for a few birds. The bird finding section describes 63 good birding areas. Indiana has long needed a current book detailing the status of its birds and this volume fills the bill nicely. ed.

**British Birds -- A Field Guide** -- Alan J. Richards -- David and Charles, North Pomfret, Vt. -- 192 p., 186 color photographs, 186 line drawings -- 1979 -- \$14.00.

This new British guide utilizes color photographs somewhat like the recent U. S. Audubon guides but with a more logical format. For each species the color photograph, text and a line drawing showing a different plumage are all on the same page and the species are in taxonomic order. The text covers appearance, behavior, songs, calls, habitat, nest, status, distribution and similar species. An example of the value of this book in the U.S. is found in the Ruff - the photograph used is of a juvenile in exactly the plumage I saw in California last September and not the breeding male which is more striking and usually represented. Not every British bird is included but the coverage is quite adequate and it is a worthwhile addition to your library. ed.

**Lambert's Birds of Shore and Estuary** -- Terence Lambert and Alan Mitchell -- Charles Scribner's Sons, New York -- 128 p., 57 color and 8 black-and-white drawings -- 1979 -- \$15.95.

This sequel to Lambert's **Birds of Garden and Woodland** (IBL Vol. 47 p. 26)

depicts more American birds than the earlier work since many water birds range the Atlantic and get farther from England than land birds. The beautiful paintings are very well reproduced and meticulously executed. Some of the common names are not those used in America. Anyone who appreciates the accurate depiction of birds will be well pleased with this fine book. ed.

**The Great Bird Illustrators and Their Art (1730-1930)** -- Peyton Shipwith -- A. and W. Publishers, New York -- 176 p., 65 color and 15 black-and-white plates -- 1979 -- \$25.00.

Fifteen of the most talented bird artists are covered from the perspective of their role in the development of realism in bird illustrations. The well known artists such as Catesby, Wilson, Audubon and Gould are here as well as Peale, Smit and Mellais -- Fuertes is not included to my surprise. The reproduction of several Audubon and Thorburn plates I checked seemed a bit washed out. A brief biography is included for each artist. The text which accompanies the plates is usually an excerpt regarding the birds depicted. ed.

**Northwest Birds, Distribution and Eggs** -- Gordon Dee Alcorn -- Western Media Printing, Tacoma, Washington -- 161 p., 32 color plates -- 1978 -- paperbound, \$6.86.

This book covers Washington and Oregon and consists of an introduction, distributional list and color plates of the eggs of over 240 species. The introduction covers the life zones of the area; size, shape and color of eggs; nesting generalities; incubation and hatching information; seasonality and conservation. The distributional list includes a common and Latin name for each subspecies (source of common name not identified), generalized distribution, habitat, egg description, egg size and breeding season. The color plates of the eggs are supposed to be reproduced actual size but some measure smaller than the size as given in the text. ed.

**Wildlife of the Forests** -- Ann and Myron Sutton -- Harry N. Abrams, Inc., New York -- 232 p., 204 color photographs and 108 line drawings -- 1979 -- \$16.95.

This lavishly illustrated volume is one of a series on the various wildlife habitats of the world. After an introduction regarding the role and value of woodlands in the natural world individual chapters deal with the forests of the continents. These are introduced by a map of the major types of forest vegetation and sections on the role of important faunal forms. For North America the Wood Duck, woodpeckers, and the Wild Turkey are the birds chosen for coverage. The book is worth the price for the photographs alone. It provides a good, general introduction to its subject. ed.

**Pheasants and Their Enemies** -- James Fitzsimons -- Spur Publications, Saiga Publishing Co. Ltd., Hinhead, Surrey, U. K. -- 101 p., 2 color plates, many line drawings -- 1979 -- L. 5.00 (about \$11.00).

This is a comprehensive book on pheasants and their habits written at an elementary level primarily for the aviculturist. It includes a brief history, varieties of pheasants, associated species and the feeding and management of stock. The predators of pheasants and possible action to take against them are covered. ed.

**A Guide to North American Waterfowl** -- Paul A. Johnsgard -- Indiana University Press, Bloomington -- 274 p., 31 color photographs, many maps and line drawings -- 1979 -- \$15.95.

It seems impossible, but we have yet another book on waterfowl. This one is heavy on the text for a guide. For each species the author details local names, range, subspecies, identification, and natural history. This book is a condensed

version of **Waterfowl of North America** (IBL Vol. 46 p. 33). The color photographs found in both books are identical. ed.

**Research is a Passion With Me** -- Margaret Morse Nice -- Consolidated Amethyst Communications, Inc., 12 Crescent Town Road, Unit 310, Toronto, Ontario -- 324 p., 10 photographs, many line drawings -- 1979 -- paperbound, \$9.95.

Mrs. Nice was one of the most respected ornithologists of this century. She proved that a housewife can make major scientific contributions and that much more can be learned about common birds. This autobiography should serve as an inspiration for all amateur naturalists. ed.

**My World of Birds: Memoirs of an Ornithologist** -- George J. Wallace -- Dorrance and Co., 35 Cricket Terrace, Ardmore, Pa. -- 345 p., 75 black-and-white photographs -- 1979 -- \$10.00.

This is a season for autobiographies. This one is written by a more traditional ornithologist, Dr. George J. Wallace. He combines accounts of research, teaching, observations, meetings, musings and extensive travel. Birders will enjoy his lists of birds observed on foreign and U. S. trips. The informal conversational style will make this an enjoyable book for any birder. ed.

**Arctic Summer -- Birds in Northern Norway** -- Richard Vaughan -- Anthony Nelson Ltd., Shrewsbury, U. K. -- available in the U. S. from Buteo Books, address above -- 152 p., 7 color and 96 black-and-white photographs -- 1979 -- L 6.25 (about \$13.50).

Here is a portrait of the Varanger Peninsula of Norway and its birds in words and photographs. The habitats are explored and their nesting species brought to life for the reader. The Arctic waders of this area are similar to Alaskan and Canadian populations so the book makes a nice parallel for those familiar with these North American areas. ed.

**Other Edens -- The Sketchbook of an Artist-Naturalist** -- John Henry Dick -- DevinAdair Co., Old Greenwich, Conn. -- 275 p., 11 maps and 150 line drawings -- 1979 -- \$19.95.

The author has been fortunate enough to visit many of the last outposts of undisturbed nature in the course of his lifetime. He describes them, both in word pictures and sketches, in a spellbinding manner for both the world and arm chair traveler. He covers East Africa, Alaska, Texas, Greenland, India, Galapagos, Antarctica, New Guinea, the Falklands, and the American tropics. ed.

**A Passion for Birds -- Fifty Years of Photographing Wildlife** -- Eric Hosking -- Coward, McCann and Geoghegan, Inc., New York -- 224 p., 80 color and 200+ black-and-white photographs -- 1979 -- \$25.00.

In 1973 Eric Hosking wrote his autobiography, **An Eye for a Bird** (IBL Vol. 43 p. 56). This book is a vehicle for displaying some of his beautiful work. The chapters relate to such topics as groups of related birds, birds in flight, birds of various geographic areas, and feeding young. An appendix provides the detailed photographic information for each shot. The text relates to the techniques used to obtain some of the photographs. The combination is a beautifully produced showcase for one of the world's foremost wildlife photographers. ed.

**Glen Loates Birds of North America** -- Ross James -- Prentice Hall Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N. J. -- 108 p., 24 color plates, 24 maps -- 1979 -- \$24.95.

Glen Loates is a highly regarded young Canadian bird artist. This book presents portraits of 24 species of North American birds. He depicts birds in unusual postures and somewhat in the manner of Lansdown. The text presents a profile of the species with an insight into the life history and a map of the breeding range. The result is a good representation of Loates work well reproduced. ed.

**Birds of Prey** -- Gareth Parry and Rory Putnam -- Simon and Schuster, New York -- 120 p., 35 color plates, many black-and-white photographs, maps and line drawings -- 1979 -- \$29.95.

Gareth Perry is a young Welch artist who has had no extensive formal art training. His work depicts North American and European birds of prey and shows a great variability in capturing the essence of the subject with a poor job on most owls. The text accompanying the plates includes a description of the species and some life history highlights. The introduction presents some general background on birds of prey and their relationship with man, their habitat and distribution including range maps. The plates are well reproduced and the layout is nicely done while the use of outdated names such as Pigeon Hawk and Duck Hawk is inexcusable. ed.

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Peter C. Petersen, Editor

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.